TL6554-13

Paulino Gama at UN Decol. Comittee

Statement by Mr. Paulino Gama

President of The Timorese International Secretariat for Human Rights and The Timorese Prisoners Fraternity

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[This is the printed statement as distributed by Mr. Gama.]

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to thank you very much for this opportunity to address myself to this distinguished Committee.

I am the former operational commander of FALINTIL, the Fretilin's Armed Resistance and I was in mountains of east Timor during 10 years 1975-1985 to oppose the presence of Indonesian administration in my homeland.

In 1990, I managed to escape from Jakarta to Thailand to found two East Timorese Human Rights organizations: The Timorese International Secretariat for Human Rights and The Timorese Prisoners Fraternity. I decided, therefore, to seek new ways how to protect the physical integrity of my own people against some abuses committed by some Indonesian authorities.

After the Santa Cruz incident of Nov. 12, 1991, TISHR and TPF have strongly denounced the behaviour of Indonesian military but has acknowledged the immediate initiative of Indonesian Central Authorities to carry out the investigation and to find the responsible ones for the sad happening.

Finally, after having crossed checked Indonesian reports and our own made on the spot, we recognized that the incident was only an isolate action of same individuals as the result of circumstances of place, time and motivation created by Portuguese interference at distance.

The people of East Timor today is more confident on a growing respect for its Human Rights as the Indonesian Authorities are implementing the observation of the recommendations made by the United Nations Human Rights commission, not only in East Timor but also in all Indonesia.

Recently, TISHR and TPF were promised to be permitted to act openly in East Timor and therefore we hope that very soon we will open a small office led by the notorious Timorese Human Rights activists.

Therefore, in slow path we have to continue to release ourselves from a long drama, we have to give a change of understanding on the dialogue between Portugal and Indonesia to allow the existence of a global solution for East Timor with the participation of exclusive Timorese representations of all kinds and historically recognized as long as 1975.

TISHR and TPF support therefore and unconditionally the initiative of His Excellency the Secretary-General of the UNO to achieve confident building measures between Portugal and Indonesia in order to reach the best possible solution for our Peoples stability, harmony and progress.

I trust that this respected Committee give also its contribution to help the United Nations to perform its role of preserving peace in a very impart area of the globe.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.